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10/656,453	09/05/2003	Yuan Wu	03-SIN-092	8429
30425 7590 09/01/2010 STMICROELECTRONICS, INC. MAIL STATION 2346 1310 ELECTRONICS DRIVE CARROLLTON, TX 75006				
EXAMINER				
PAUL, DISLER				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2614				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/656,453

Applicant(s)

WU ET AL.

Examiner

DISLER PAUL

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 August 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 4-6; 13-17; 30-31; 33-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 33; 30-31; 38; 41-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-6; 13-17; 34-37; 39 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 33; 38 recite the limitation wherein the virtualizer comprises: "a forward crossover path configured to filter an output signal of the filter" in therein. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 34; (35, 4-6); 36-37; (39,13-17) are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

RE claim 34, none of the prior arts of record disclose the virtualizer comprises : a filter configured to filter input signals comprising the audio information; a first combiner configured to produce first output signals for a first physical speaker using the output of the filter and a second combiner configured to produce second output signals for a second physical speaker using an output of the forward crossover path and the output of the first feedback crossover path; and a second feedback crossover path configured to receive, delay, and filter the second output signals, the first combiner further configured to produce the first output signals using an output of the second feedback crossover path.

Similarly, claim 35 has been analyzed and objected for similar reason as in claim 34.

Re claim 39, none of the prior arts of record disclose wherein one or more first combiners operable to produce first output signals for a first physical speaker using one or more of: one or more of the input signals, one or more outputs from the filters, and one or more outputs from the forward crossover paths and one or more second combiners operable to produce second output signals for a second physical speaker using one or more of: one or more of the input signals, one or more outputs from the filters, and one or more outputs from the forward crossover paths; a first feedback crossover path operable to receive, delay, and filter the first output signals, the one or more second combiners further operable to produce the second output signals using an output from the first feedback crossover path.

Response to Amendment

The applicant's amended as in claim 33, wherein "the virtualizer comprising a first feedback crossover path configured to receive, delay, and filter signals output from the virtualizer; and a forward crossover path configured to receive, delay, and filter an output of the filter, wherein an output of the first feedback path and an output of the forward crossover path are combined to produce at least one output signal from the virtualizer"; has been analyzed and rejected over prior art.

It is noted that the prior art as in Kumamoto disclose of a system wherein a virtualizer comprising: a first feedback crossover path configured to receive, and filter signals output from the virtualizer; and a forward crossover path configured to receive, and filter an output signal, wherein an output of the first feedback path and an output of the forward crossover path are, combined to produce at least one output signal from the virtualizer (fig.1 (b) (103a; 103b); fig.13 (1303); fig.15-16 (1503; 1603); col.8 line 52-67 & col.9 line 1-49 ; col.18 line 6-15; col. 19 line 5-15/herein the virtualizer comprise an output of a forward crossover path filter and output of a feed back path which are then combined) so as to produce virtual sound images in which multiple cancellation, in which the generation of crosstalk canceling signal and the crosstalk cancellation using the generated signal are repeated become possible.

Thus, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skills in the art to have modified the prior art by adding the virtualizer; and a forward crossover path configured to receive, and filter an output signal, wherein an output of the first feedback path and an output of the forward crossover path are, combined to produce at least one output signal from the virtualizer so as to produce virtual sound images in which multiple cancellation, in which the generation of crosstalk canceling signal and the crosstalk cancellation using the generated signal are repeated become possible.

But, it is noted that the combined teaching of Kubota and Kumamoto as a whole, failed to disclose that the feedback path being configured to delay and filter output signals and similarly the forward path to delay and filter signals and output signal.

But, Tanner, Jr. et al. disclose of a virtualizer system wherein the forward path does delay and filter signals and output signal (fig.4A (420,421); col.7 line 30-60) so as to compensate for the time it takes an undesired crosstalk signal to reach the opposite ear of the listener wherein such signal is to be cancelled. Thus, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skills in the art to have modified the prior art by adding the virtualizer system wherein the forward path does delay and filter signals and output signal so as to compensate for the time it takes to process the signal.

Similarly, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skills in the art to have tried in modifying the delay to have also implemented such feedback path being configured to delay and filter output signals so as to compensate for the time it takes to process that particular feedback path signal.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubota (US 7424121 B2) and Kumamoto (US 6,285,766 B1) and Tanner, Jr. et al. (US 6,307,941 B1).

Re claim 33, Kubota discloses of an audio processor, comprising: a virtualizer configured to process audio information to virtualize at least one speaker such that, from a listener's perspective, sounds appear to come from at least one direction where

a physical speaker is not present (fig.5 (2); fig.6; col.1 line 30-50; col.3 line 10-20; col.4 line 10-15) and a controller configured to cause the virtualizer to virtualize the at least one speaker at any location in a space around the listener (fig.5 (1); col.1 line 14-20; col.3 line 60-67; col.4 line 15-20).

However, Kubota never specifies of the virtualizer comprising a first feedback crossover path configured to receive, and filter signals output from the virtualizer; and a forward crossover path configured to receive, and filter an output signal, wherein an output of the first feedback path and an output of the forward crossover path are, combined to produce at least one output signal from the virtualizer.

But, Kumamoto disclose of a system wherein a virtualizer comprising: a first feedback crossover path configured to receive, and filter signals output from the virtualizer; and a forward crossover path configured to receive, and filter an output signal, wherein an output of the first feedback path and an output of the forward crossover path are, combined to produce at least one output signal from the virtualizer (fig.1 (b) (103a; 103b); fig.13 (1303); fig.15-16 (1503; 1603); col.8 line 52-67 & col.9 line 1-49 ; col.18 line 6-15; col. 19 line 5-15/herein the virtualizer comprise an output of a forward crossover path filter and output of a feed back path which are then combined) so as to produce virtual sound images in which multiple cancellation, in which the generation of crosstalk canceling signal and the crosstalk cancellation using the generated signal are repeated become possible.

Thus, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skills in the art to have modified the prior art by adding the virtualizer; and a forward crossover path configured to receive, and filter an output signal, wherein an output of the first feedback path and an output of the forward crossover path are, combined to produce at least one output signal from the virtualizer so as to produce virtual sound images in which multiple cancellation, in which the generation of crosstalk canceling signal and the crosstalk cancellation using the generated signal are repeated become possible.

But, it is noted that the combined teaching of Kubota and Kumamoto as a whole, failed to disclose that the feedback path being configured to delay and filter output signals and similarly the forward path to delay and filter signals and output signal.

But, Tanner, Jr. et al. disclose of a virtualizer system wherein the forward path does delay and filter signals and output signal (fig.4A (420,421); col.7 line 30-60) so as to compensate for the time it takes an undesired crosstalk signal to reach the opposite ear of the listener wherein such signal is to be cancelled. Thus, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skills in the art to have modified the prior art by adding the virtualizer system wherein the forward path does delay and filter signals and output signal so as to compensate for the time it takes to process the signal.

Similarly, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skills in the art to have tried in modifying the delay to have also implemented such feedback path being configured to delay and filter output signals so as to compensate for the time it takes to process that particular feedback path signal.

Claim 38 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubota (US 7424121 B2) and Neidich et al. (US 7,113,609 B1) and Kasai et al. (US 7242782 B1) and Kumamoto (US 6,285,766 B1) and Tanner, Jr. et al. (US 6,307,941 B1).

Re claim 38, Kubota discloses of a device, comprising: an audio source operable to provide audio information (fig.4 (3); col.3 line 60-62; col.4 line 1-9); and an audio processor operable to receive the audio information and process the audio information to virtualize at least one speaker so that, from a listener's perspective, sounds appear to come from at least one direction where a physical speaker is not present, the audio processor being configurable to virtualize the at least one speaker at any location in a space around the listener (fig.4 (2); fig.2 (2); col.4 line 10-25); and wherein the audio processor comprises: a virtualizer configured to process audio information to virtualize the at least one speaker (fig.2-3 (2); col.5 line 5-11) and a controller configured to cause the virtualizer to virtualize the at least one speaker based on certain position information (fig.1-2 (1); col.2 line 5-15; col.3 line 54-63/the virtualizer to create the phantom image based on the position and movement information parameters of the audio signals).

However, Kubota fail to disclose the controller being configured to determine a location of the at least one speaker based on a number of parameters including at least a position of at least one actual speaker and configured to cause the virtualizer to virtualize the at least one speaker at the determined location.

But, Neidich et al. disclose of a controller being configured to determine a location of the at least one speaker based on a number of parameters including at least a position of at least one actual speaker and configured to cause a virtualizer to virtualize the at least one speaker at the determined location (fig.3 (30,37); fig.4; col.5 line 50-60; col.6 line 4-12; col.8 line 45-67/ a virtualizer to virtualize the rear center speaker based on the determined speaker position) so as to create an improved virtual surround signals based on the relative physical characteristics of the speakers. Thus, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skills in the art to have modified the prior arts by adding the controller being configured to determine a location of the at least one speaker based on a number of parameters including at least a position of at least one actual speaker and configured to cause a virtualizer to virtualize the at least one speaker at the determined location so as to create an improved virtual surround signals based on the relative physical characteristics of the speakers.

However, the combined teaching of Kubota and Neidich et al. as a whole, fail to disclose of the specific wherein the virtualizer to virtualize the speakers by

individually altering a frequency response of one or more of the filters and a delay of one or more of the delay lines

But, Kasai discloses of a virtualizer to virtualize the speakers by individually altering a frequency response of one or more of the filters and a delay of one or more of the delay lines (fig.19 (120a, 1208) or {201-202,205-206}; col.12 line 37-47/each individual filter being altered and also having a delay line as being adjusted for creating the phantom sound signal) so as to improve the accuracy in the low frequency component of the sound image and obtain the desired /optimum properties for the filter as desired. Thus, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill in the art to have modified the prior art by adding the virtualizing the loudspeakers by individually altering a frequency response of one or more of the filters and a delay of one or more of the delay lines for improving the accuracy in the low frequency component of the sound image and obtain the desired /optimum properties for the filter as desired.

The combined teaching of Kubota and Neidich et al. and Kasai as a whole, never specify of the virtualizer comprising at least one feedback crossover path configured to receive, and filter signals output from the virtualizer; and at least one forward crossover path configured to receive, and filter an output signal, wherein an output of the first feedback path and an output of the forward crossover path are combined to produce at least one output signal from the virtualizer.

But, Kumamoto disclose of a system wherein a virtualizer comprising at least one feedback crossover path configured to receive, and filter signals output from the virtualizer; and at least one forward crossover path configured to receive, and filter an output signal, wherein an output of the first feedback path and an output of the forward crossover path are combined to produce at least one output signal from the virtualizer (fig.1 (b) (103a; 103b); fig.13 (1303); fig.15-16 (1503; 1603); col.8 line 52-67 & col.9 line 1-49 ; col.18 line 6-15; col. 19 line 5-15/herein the virtualizer comprise an output of a forward crossover path filter and output of a feed back path which are then combined) so as to produce virtual sound images in which multiple cancellation, in which the generation of crosstalk canceling signal and the crosstalk cancellation using the generated signal are repeated become possible.

Thus, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skills in the art to have modified the prior art by adding the virtualizer; and a forward crossover path configured to receive, and filter an output signal, wherein an output of the first feedback path and an output of the forward crossover path are, combined to produce at least one output signal from the virtualizer so as to produce virtual sound images in which multiple cancellation, in which the generation of crosstalk canceling signal and the crosstalk cancellation using the generated signal are repeated become possible.

But, it is noted that the combined teaching of Kubota and Neidich et al. and Kasai and Kumamoto as a whole, failed to disclose that the feedback path being configured to delay and filter output signals and similarly the forward path to delay and filter signals and output signal.

But, Tanner, Jr. et al. disclose of a virtualizer system wherein the forward path does delay and filter signals and output signal (fig.4A (420,421); col.7 line 30-60) so as to compensate for the time it takes an undesired crosstalk signal to reach the opposite ear of the listener wherein such signal is to be cancelled. Thus, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skills in the art to have modified the prior art by adding the virtualizer system wherein the forward path does delay and filter signals and output signal so as to compensate for the time it takes to process the signal.

Similarly, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skills in the art to have tried in modifying the delay to have also implemented such feedback path being configured to delay and filter output signals so as to compensate for the time it takes to process that particular feedback path signal.

Claims 40-41; 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being Unpatentable over Kumamoto (US 6,285,766 B1) and Tanner, Jr. et al. (US 6,307,941 B1).

Re claim 40, Kumamoto disclose of a method, comprising: receiving a first physical speaker signal (fig.1 (b) (104); col.9 line 3-15); generating first output signals

for a first physical speaker and generating second output signals for a second physical speaker and wherein the first and second output signals are generated from the received first physical speaker signal (fig.1 (b) (105); col.9 line 30-37; fig.15-16 (1505,1605)).

Kumamoto further discloses of the specific wherein generating the second output signal comprises combining an output of at least one feedback crossover path operable to receive, and filter the first output signal and a first forward crossover signal received from a first forward crossover path operable to receive, and filter a first input signal (fig.1 (b) (103a; 103b); fig.13 (1303); fig.15-16 (1503; 1603); col.8 line 52-67 & col.9 line 1-49 ; col.18 line 6-15; col. 19 line 5-15/herein the virtualizer comprise an output of a forward crossover path filter and output of a feed back path which are then combined) .

But, it is noted that Kumamoto as a whole, failed to disclose that the feedback path being configured to delay and filter output signals and similarly the forward path to delay and filter signals and output signal.

But, Tanner, Jr. et al. disclose of a virtualizer system wherein the forward path does delay and filter signals and output signal (fig.4A (420,421); col.7 line 30-60) so as to compensate for the time it takes an undesired crosstalk signal to reach the opposite ear of the listener wherein such signal is to be cancelled. Thus, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skills in the art to have modified the prior art by adding

the virtualizer system wherein the forward path does delay and filter signals and output signal so as to compensate for the time it takes to process the signal.

Similarly, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skills in the art to have tried in modifying the delay to have also implemented such feedback path being configured to delay and filter output signals so as to compensate for the time it takes to process that particular feedback path signal.

Re claim 41, The method of Claim 40, wherein providing further comprises: providing the second output signals to a first feedback crossover path operable to receive, delay, and filter the second output signals; and providing the first output signals to a second feedback crossover path operable to receive, delay, and filter the first output signals (fig.1 (b) (106a; 106b); col.8 lines 60-67).

Re claim 43 ; the method of Claim 40, further comprising: filtering one or more input signals to produce one or more filtered input signals (fig.15 (1507); fig.1b (107); col.8 line 55-60); providing one or more of the filtered input signals to one or more forward crossover paths (fig.5 (215); fig.10 (1015)/the filter signal may be forwarded to a forward path); and generating the first and second output signals using one or more of: one or more of the input signals, one or more of the filtered input signals, and one or more outputs from the forward crossover paths (fig.1b (103); fig.15 (1503); col.8 line 55-

60) ; wherein generating the first output signals further comprises using an output from the second feedback crossover path and wherein generating the second output signals further comprises using an output from the first feedback crossover path (fig.1 (b) (103,105); fig.15 (1505,1503)) an wherein the first output signals emulate effects of a virtual speaker on one ear of a listener, the second output signals emulate effects of the virtual speaker on another ear of the listener and each of the output signals at least partially cancels crosstalk caused by the other output signals (col.19 line 25-40; col.20 line 25-31; col.21 line 5-38/the signals to emulate multiple virtual sounds and does cross talk cancellation).

Claims 42; 30-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being Unpatentable over Kumamoto (US 6,285,766 B1) and Tanner, Jr. et al. (US 6,307,941 B1) and Kasai et al. (US 7242782 B1).

Re claim 42, the method of Claim 41, wherein the first and second output signals are produced using one or more first filters, one or more forward crossover paths each comprising a first delay line and a second filter; and two feedback crossover paths each comprising a second delay line and a third filter (fig.1 (b) (103,107, 108, 106); fig.15-16; col.8 line 53-60).

However, the combined teaching of Kumamoto and Tanner, Jr. et al. as a whole, fail to disclose of such specific as individually altering a frequency response of one or

more of the filters and a delay of one or more of the delay lines to change the location of one or more of the virtualized speakers.

But, Kasai disclose of a such concept of as individually altering a frequency response of one or more of the filters and a delay of one or more of the delay lines to change the location of one or more of the virtualized speakers (fig.19 (120a, 1208) or {201-202,205-206}; col.12 line 37-47/each individual filter being altered and also having a delay line as being adjusted for creating the phantom sound signal) so as to improve the accuracy in the low frequency component of the sound image and obtain the desired /optimum properties for the filter as desired. Thus, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill in the art to have modified the prior arts by individually altering a frequency response of one or more of the filters and a delay of one or more of the delay lines to change the location of one or more of the virtualized speakers for improving the accuracy in the low frequency component of the sound image and obtain the desired /optimum properties for the filter as desired.

Re claim 30, the method of Claim 42, wherein the first and second output signals emulate the effects of multiple virtual speakers on the ears of the listener (col.19 line 25-40; col.20 line 25-31; col.21 line 5-38/the signals to emulate multiple virtual sounds).

Re claim 31, the method of Claim 42, wherein the first and second output signals emulate the effects of multiple virtual speakers at any locations in a space around the listener (col.19 line 25-40; col.20 line 25-31; col.21 line 5-38/the signals to emulate multiple virtual sounds).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DISLER PAUL whose telephone number is (571)270-1187. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivian Chin can be reached on 571-272-7848. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/D. P./
Examiner, Art Unit 2614

/Devona E. Faulk/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2614